

State Items.

The following are all from the New York Produce News:

Last season Orlando shipped out 381 carloads of oranges.

The Donnerick orange grove near Orlando, netted its owner \$5,000 on the 8,000 boxes shipped.

The last orange crop of the state was about 2,400,000 boxes, but next season's will probably be nearer 4,000,000.

A conservative estimate of the pine crop to come from the Keys is about 75,000 crates.

The first shipment of Red Spanish pineapples, consisting of 275 crates came to Miami from Elliott Key last week.

Shipments of pineapples will be made from the East Coast this week and June and July will be busy times with the growers and dealers. Conservative estimates place the yield at 250 to 300 crates per acre.

Reports from the East Coast and from the south central and west coast are to the effect that the pineapple crop is an extremely large one, and that the indications are that it will exceed by at least 150 per cent. the crop of last year.

W. C. Olyatt, of Terra Ceia, refused \$800 for an acre of tomatoes recently.

J. R. Davis shipped from Bartow on May 2nd, the first car of tomatoes from the West Coast to Boston.

Florida will send to the Northern markets this spring the greatest quantity of early vegetables that it has ever sent in the history of the state.

A premium for the first crate of standard packed Florida cantaloupes and the first crate of fine peaches has been offered to the farmers and citizens of the state by the Consolidated Fruit Company of Jacksonville, Walter Hawkins, manager, the fruit to be auctioned for the benefit of the Frisco sufferers.

More Money in the Milkers.

There is much truth in the following from the Tampa Weekly Times:

A great deal is being written in these days about improving the native breed of Florida cattle, and some cattlemen of advanced ideas are trying to accomplish this very desirable fact by the importation of pure-bred young bulls from the different beef breeds and crossing them with their native stock, much to the delight of stockmen in other states further north who have these animals for sale.

It seems, however, distinctly doubtful whether these same cattle men are not working on the principle of the cart before the horse, as before the Florida cow can ever be brought up to compete with the Western stock it will be necessary to produce some kind of feed that will make the necessary frame and the accompanying meat to put on the frame.

If any one will take the trouble to go down into the cattle country during the spring he will find calves in the various pens as fine and fat as can be found anywhere, and it is not until the grass which their mothers feed on becomes so tough and wiry that the cows can no longer provide milk for their offspring that these little fellows cease to grow, except as to their horns, and finally develop into the regulation Florida steer, that

is to say those that escape the ravages of the "salt sick," which would be more correctly described as a combination of starvation and indigestion.

The stockmen, on the other hand, say they cannot afford to feed their animals, and that when they try to grow velvet beans or other much advertised food crops on a large scale, they are a failure; and this probably being more or less true, it seems almost folly to purchase bulls with the idea of improving their stock when these same animals have only made their reputation as beef producing beasts by their capacity for turning the large amount of food given them into a marketable product.

The trouble would seem to be that our stockmen, having made good money supplying the local trade and Cuban markets with the small native beeves for a number of years, now that they have to go into competition with the Western beef fail to realize that it would be good policy for them to let go the beef business to a great extent and breed rather to the dairy type of cattle.

To a great extent the lines of the native cow conforms much more to the dairy breeds of cattle than to those of the beef producers; in fact, many of them, when well cared for and fed, make a very fair return at the milk pail, and it has been proved time and again that when crossed with a bull from one of the milking strains a very good type of grade animal is the result.

But it is in the question of feeding, and both beef and dairy types have to be fed if they are to amount to anything, that the dairy animal comes out far ahead. It is impossible to get any returns from the beef animal until he is at least two years old, and from the time of his birth a feed bill has to be charged either indirectly through his mother or later on directly to him, with the result that at the age of two years he will dress about 350 pounds which, at the present market price, would make him worth \$21. On the other hand, the dairy cow will feed her calf for the first year on skim milk and at the same time at least pay her feed bill by the amount of butter she makes, and the probability is she will do better than this; furthermore, it is not necessary to crowd a heifer in feed as much as a beef steer, as there is a desire rather to keep her in just good order than very fat, and at the end of the two years the heifer should be fresh and worth in the open market from \$35 up, according to her capacity for giving milk. This would seem to show a decided balance in favor of the milk cow, and the figures taken are distinctly in favor of the beef animal, as the market is exceptionally high just now, while several heifers with their first calves have been sold for \$50 in the Tampa market.

It may be said that the demand for the latter class of stock will soon be over supplied, but so long as every town and village in South Florida has to buy large quantities of tub butter and condensed milk to supply its trade, there would seem to be a big opening for dairies, and the raising of dairy stock. There is very little doubt but that more money can be made by killing the male calves for veal, which demands a good price, and investing the returns in good graded

hogs, which can also be largely fed on skim milk, and prove another strong argument in favor of the dairy cattle.

Climate.

Does it ever get too hot for you in this state? We do not hear of sun strokes in Florida. On the other hand, while we do have some, so-called, blizzards, we do not really know what cold weather is. An item, clipped from the Farm Stock Journal, gives a very vivid description of the winter weather in one part of United States possessions. Also what men will endure in their thirst for gold.

Life is a stern affair in Yukon territory where in winter, sometimes for weeks together, the thermometer does not rise higher than 44 degrees below zero and ranges between that figure and 80 degrees below. When temperature approaches or reaches 60 below, edged tools out of doors must be handled with the greatest care, for they become as brittle and break as easily as glass. To drop a chisel quickly instead of laying it down softly, means that it will fly to pieces as if made of crystal instead of steel. Large spikes employed in the construction of buildings will shrink away and lose their hold on the timbers, sometimes with a sharp noise. To grasp an outside door-knob with the bare hand and hold it only five seconds will sear the palm as if with a hot iron, producing much the same pain and injury. To walk a block with unprotected hands or face is to freeze them. Fortunately a way has been discovered for safely thawing them out. This is to keep them immersed in coal oil for several hours, if need be. The frost is thus slowly drawn out and the tissues gradually restored to their normal condition. Frozen hands as hard as white marble, when thrust into the oil, have come out with their natural softness and color. To move about rapidly and take quick, deep breaths in the open air is almost certain to frost the lungs and produce severe pneumonia. Many fine horses are killed in this way.

Is Honey a Luxury?

We find floating around, simply credited to Exchange, the above question. We have no doubt that honey is, for most people a very wholesome food, though there are a few persons who cannot use it at all. It might easily be much more common than it is, if more farmers would keep bees. In this climate the honey costs the beekeeper absolutely nothing except a little work.

The original article is as follows:

This question possibly involves the question why so little honey enters into the menu of our every day life. We have grown into the habit of treating it as a luxury rather than one of the necessities. We have entirely forgotten that it is both food and medicine, and that the little ones who eat honey every day, have less craving for those sweets which are injurious to their health, and that they are less liable to the ailments so incident to the lives of children. That the visits of the family physician are few and far between, in the families where honey enters into the every day diet. The present high price of sugar and in fact sweets of all kinds, save honey, has brought them nearer together than they have been for many years, for the reason that honey has not advanced in price in

sympathy with the advance in other sweets. Our grand-mothers understood that cakes sweetened with honey remained moist and were palatable for a long time after those sweetened with sugar were too stale to be eaten.

The reason for all this is that honey has a wonderful affinity for moisture and that instead of drying out and becoming worthless they grow more moist with age. People who have attempted to keep their comb honey in the cellar have been given an object lesson of this fact by their honey accumulating sufficient moisture to break the cappings and become granulated in the combs, and of course, of very little value as food. We ought for the sake of good health consider honey at least one of the real necessities of the well ordered and healthfully prepared tables in the home, and where we desire only the more health giving articles to enter into our every day diet.



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